July 2004
Volume 3, Issue 2

The Urban Link

Newsletter of the Institute of Urban Studies http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca

Director's Note

Jino Distasio, Acting Director

As all researchers are aware, *good* research starts with *good* data. For many of Winnipeg's community-based organizations, this has meant including Statistics Canada Census data in their work. At the neighbourhood level, the census tract has traditionally provided the closest approximation to a typical neighbourhood. However, a problem with the census tract is that it does not match the smaller neighbourhood boundaries used by most organizations, including the City of Winnipeg. This makes comparisons difficult and inaccurate at best.

To provide a more standard and readily accessible geographic boundary, The Institute of Urban Studies, together with of a group of other agencies formed the Community Data Network (CDN). The mandate of the CDN has been to purchase customized data from Statistics Canada that are aggregated to smaller neighbourhood-based geographies. In fact, the CDN group was responsible for determining the current neighbourhood and inner city boundaries used by the City of Winnipeg (which is also part of the group).

The Community Data Network has ensured that researchers use consistent and more accurate boundaries in the analysis of neighbourhoods.

The work of the CDN has ensured that researchers use consistent and more accurate boundaries in the analysis of neighbourhoods. In addition to the formulation of the neighbourhood boundaries, the CDN also purchases customized cross-tabulations. It is this set of data that are of particular importance to researchers. For example, in the basic profile, the percentage of homeowners in a given neighbourhood might be 37%. However, by using cross-tabbed data, one is able to see that not only are there 37% homeowners but 25% are paying in excess of 30% of their

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The Urban Link is published by the Institute of Urban Studies. The newsletter serves as a forum for community organizations and other individuals to express views and relay information about urban issues related to the City of Winnipeg and other Canadian cities. The newsletter also disseminates information about the Institute of Urban Studies and major initiatives housed at the Institute. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent those held by the Institute of Urban Studies or the University of Winnipeg. The Urban Link is co-edited by Molly Johnson and Michelle Swanson. Contributions are welcomed on an ongoing basis. Please contact Michael Dudley at (204) 982-1140 or m.dudley@uwinnipeg.ca.
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2008-02363/

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Director's note

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income to shelter costs and that 20% of homes are in need of major repair. This perspective is much more robust and gives researchers the ability to drill further into the dynamics of the neighbourhood.

It is also important to note that these data are expensive. The 2001 data was in excess of $100,000, a cost that was borne by the many partner agencies. This is a serious concern for the group as raising this amount of money is not guaranteed in the future. Also the problem with delays is a concern as it is sometimes 2-3 years after a census before the data is available.

In closing, the work of the CND has allowed researchers to better understand the changing nature of Winnipeg and identify trends and potential issues of concern. The use of consistent geographies will enable agencies to connect and share knowledge from a number of perspectives.

The IUS website

The IUS website has grown over the past few months. It is now home to Dr. Tom Carter's Canadian Research Chair web pages, as well as several new IUS and WIRA reports and abstracts from CJUR's Summer 2004 issue. The CRC pages include a research overview and research highlights and an exhaustive links page. There are three new reports available on the website. The *First Nations/Metis/ Inuit Mobility Study* and *Big Boxes, Power Centres and the Evolving Retail Landscape of Winnipeg* are available for download from the Publications section of the site. A new WIRA report, entitled *Building Community Capacity in Winnipeg's Inner City: Exploring the Learning and Resource needs of Volunteer Board of Directors in Non-Profit Organizations*, is also available for download from the What's New! WIRA web page. Also in the WIRA realm, student resources for the Summer Institute course are accessible on the web site, and soon more information on the WIRA-hosted CUexpo2005 conference will be posted. We are always looking for suggestions to make the website more user-friendly, so please don't hesitate to send your feedback to the web editor: m.kuly@uwinnipeg.ca.

http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca

What's New at IUS

The Institute of Urban Studies welcomes Michelle Kuly (Web Editor) and Molly Johnson (Research Associate). Michelle's research interests include the mediation of culture and the processes that shape our perceptions of place, while Molly has been focusing on the social and economic importance of walking the urban environment.

The Institute also welcomes Leah Ross, Master's student in City Planning at the University of Manitoba, who joins Dr. Tom Carter's Canada Research Chair staff for the summer as a Research Assistant. Leah's interests include youth participation in the planning process and reading a good book.

Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation

Canada Research Chair Report

Since the last issue of the Newsletter the Canada Research Chair website has been developed. Please check us out at http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/. The website, which contains research highlights, reports, publications, presentations and teaching material is designed as a resource for students, researchers and those working in the community. Recent additions to the site include:

Research highlights

- A New Face on Poverty: Social Assistance in Winnipeg's Inner City
- Dwelling Change in Winnipeg's Inner City 1971-2001
  - Background document
- Winnipeg's Inner City 1971-2001: An Analysis of Change
  - Data sets/maps on Winnipeg's dwelling conditions, ownership, income and education levels, employment and other population characteristics.
- Presentation for CMHC Leaders' Conference Urban Trends and Housing Implications

The site will continue to expand with the research and educational activities of the Chair.

In addition to continued work on inner city decline and revitalization – the basis focus of research under the Chair, the research initiatives over the summer will include:

- A study of the characteristics, trends and governance issues facing Manitoba municipalities. This study is part of a national study funded by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council focusing on the quality of public policy in Canadian municipalities led by Robert Young of University of Western Ontario.

- Development of a paper on the Role of Social Housing in facilitating the delivery of other social policy initiatives for the Canadian Policy Research Network.

- Development of a paper on municipal issues surrounding the movement of Aboriginal people to urban centres. The specific focus will be the responsibilities of municipal service providers. The work is funded by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities.

- A research report on vacancies in the social housing portfolio in rural centres in Manitoba, Saskatoon, Alberta and British Columbia. This is part of a national study funded by CMHC and led by David Bruce of the Rural and Small Towns Research Program at Mount Allison University.

- The Role of Immigration in Housing Demand in Canadian Cities – a study funded by the Centre For Global Movements at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

Please visit the website for further information.

http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/

Canada Research Chair in Urban Change and Adaptation

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Research on single room occupancy hotels (SRO's)

By Susan Mulligan

For the past year, The Institute of Urban Studies has been conducting research on single room occupancy hotels (SRO's). The objectives of this research have been to critically examine the realities of SRO's in Winnipeg and to assess their influence on the people who live in them and their surrounding community.

SRO's are the least understood form of housing. Recent studies in North America have focused on the presence of social ties but have neglected the population's interaction within the built environment. A typical SRO hotel unit is 10 by 10 feet in size with no private amenities such as bathrooms or cooking areas. For many, the street is their "living room."

In Winnipeg the regulatory environment is ambiguous at best. This setting aggravates the functioning climate for social service agencies, city department officials, hotel owners and residents. Furthermore, residents have no tenancy protection under the Manitoba Residential Tenancies Act and are subject to eviction at any time.

Looking for case studies that would provide promising practices elsewhere led us to examine the Skid Row area of Central City East Los Angeles. As a result, our community partner, Constable Gerard Allard (Winnipeg Police Force) and I conducted field research in Los Angeles this past April.

Skid Row, an area of approximately 50 city blocks, has one of the largest concentrations of poverty in the US. Despite the loss of 2,330 hotels units, the community has approximately 6,500 SRO hotel units that remain on its inventory list. Since1976, the city of Los Angeles has targeted over $80 million towards the preservation and rehabilitation of these hotels which range in size from 150 to 500 units. Today, nearly 50% of this stock has been saved and is currently owned and operated by non-profit organizations.

One such organization, Skid Row Housing Trust (SRHT), was able to provide valuable insights into the operation of their non-profit SRO's. They have 18 buildings that house the city's poorest residents. The Trust offers support services to assist tenants in independent living. Tenants' Services provide case management, support groups, benefits advocacy and educational workshops. SRHT Property Management, a non-profit affiliate of the Trust, manages the hotels. As a main employer in the area, the company hires many of the current residents for maintenance, janitorial and professional work.

Our research trip was beneficial in terms of gaining perspectives on how a non-profit hotel may be advantageous within the Winnipeg context. By combining what we have learned from other jurisdictions and our surveys, we hope to provide strong recommendations in our final report. One outcome we hope for is that this project will provide options for ensuring that this form of shelter delivers the best possible accommodation in an affordable and healthful manner.

Skid Row area of Central City East Los Angeles

Source: Photographed by author

IUS Library

The Institute of Urban Studies Library (a branch of the University of Winnipeg library) is an excellent resource for students, community members, and the Institute staff.

Senior Research Associate Michael Dudley manages a diverse collection of material on urban policy, design, history, and planning. Periodicals in the collection include *The Next American City*, *Progressive Planning Reader*, and *Plan Canada*. Recent monograph acquisitions include Mike Davis' *Dead Cities*, Robert D. Putnam's *Better Together: Restoring the American Community* and *The Smart House* by James Grayson Trulove.

The collection is accessible by students and faculty at the University of Winnipeg, the University of Manitoba, Red River College, and the Canadian Mennonite University. The Institute also offers memberships to members of community development organizations.

For more information please contact Michael Dudley by email at m.dudley@uwinnipeg.ca or by phone at 982-1145.

New books on order:

Birch, Eugenie L. *The Urban and Regional Planning Reader.*

Jacobs, Jane. *Dark Age Ahead.*

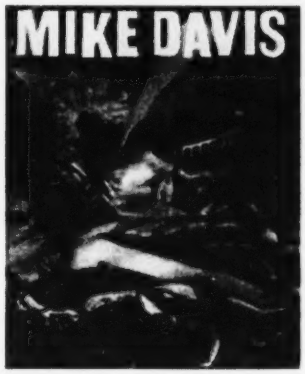
James, Sarah and Torbjvrn Lahti. *The Natural Step for Communities: How Cities and Towns Can Change to Sustainable Practices.*

Nivola, Pietro S. *Laws of the Landscape : How Policies Shape Cities in Europe and America.*

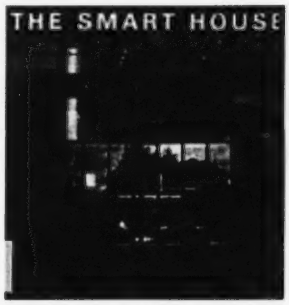
Uitto, Juha I. And Asit K. Biswas, eds. *Water for Urban Areas: Challenges and Perspectives.*

IUS Library Hours
Mon to Fri, 8:30am to 4:30pm.
Suite 103-520 Portage Avenue

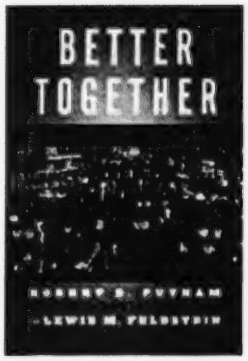
From the Shelves– New at the IUS Library



Davis, Mike. *Dead Cities.* New York: New Press, 2003. Landscapes destroyed by nuclear testing and urban centers paralyzed by extreme weather are brought together in Mike Davis' new book Dead Cities. Author of *City of Quartz* and *Ecology of Fear, Davis* demonstrates that "our urban infrastructures are as little prepared to deal with climate change as with car bombs and hijacked airliners."



Trulove, James Grayson. *The Smart House.* New York: HarperCollins, 2002. *The Smart House* provides ten thoroughly illustrated examples of recently constructed dwellings in three areas: Smart Technology, Smart Materials, and Smart Design.



Putnam, Robert D and Lewis M. Feldstein with Don Cohen. *Better Together: Restoring the American Community.* New York: Simon and Schuster, 2003. Author of critically acclaimed *Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community* joins with "longtime civic activist Lewis Feldstein" in describing the many examples of how committed citizens are engaging in civic renewal.

COPIES NOW AVAILABLE

The Urban Link Newsletter of the Institute of Urban Studies Volume 3, Issue 2

The Canadian Journal of Urban Research
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Volume 13, Issue 1, Summer 2004
Supplement
Canadian Planning and Policy - Aménagement et politique au Canada

Introduction
Piecing Together Planning Priorities
Ian Skelton

Obituary
Harold Spence-Sales: Poet of Space and Place
Jeanne M. Wolfe

Diversity and Difference in Planning
Diversity and Planning Education: A Canadian Perspective
Kanishka Goonewardena, Katharine N. Rankin and Sarah Weinstock

The Uncertain City: Making Space(s) for Difference
Barbara Rahder and Richard Milgrom

Comment
Beth Moore Milroy

Articles
Do Not Disturb: "Vulnerable Populations" in Federal Government Policy Discourses and Practices
Karen B. Murray

The Planning and Policy Implications of Gated Communities
Jill Grant, Katherine Greene and D. Kirstin Maxwell

Research Note
Identifying the Secure City: Research to Establish a Preliminary Framework
Evan D.G. Fraser and Warren Mabee

Volume 13, Issue 1, Summer 2004
Special Issue
The Economics of Immigration and Canada's Cities

Introduction
Introduction to Economic and Urban Issues in Canadian Immigration Policy
Hugh Grant and Arthur Sweetman

Articles
The Deteriorating Economic Welfare of Canadian Immigrants
Garnett Picot

Economic Integration of Immigrants to Canada: A Short Survey
Derek Hum and Wayne Simpson

Immigrant Earnings Performance in Canadian Cities: 1981 through 2001
Casey R. Warman and Christopher Worswick

Toronto and Vancouver Bound: The Location Choice of New Canadian Immigrants
James Ted McDonald

The Goals of Canada's Immigration Policy: A Historical Perspective
Alan Green and David Green

The Impact of Canada's New Immigration Act on Chinese Independent Immigrants
Yan Shi

Immigrant Public Finance Transfers: A Comparative Analysis by City
Don DeVoretz and Sergiy Pivnenko

Public Transit Use Among Immigrants
Andrew Heisz and Grant Schellenberg

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Updates on Community-based Research

By Anita Friesen, Community Liaison Director

WIRA/IUS SUMMER INSTITUTE 2004

The theme of this year's Summer Institute (May 31 – June 5) was "What Makes a Good Urban Neighbourhood." Community and student participants learned of and discussed issues such as gentrification, urban decline, the role of politics in community building, safety, neighbourhood revitalization, and urban design related to Winnipeg's Inner City. Highlights of the week included an afternoon fieldtrip and the two evening keynote speakers: Dr. Avi Friedman of McGill University who brought innovative ideas of how cities can become attractive to residents again, and Dan Burden of Walkable Communities Inc. who spoke about making communities for people, not just cars.

NEW WIRA RESEARCH REPORT

Now available on the WIRA website is the recently released report "Building Community Capacity in Winnipeg's Inner City: Exploring the Learning and Resource Needs of Volunteer Boards of Directors in Non-Profit Organizations" *By Lynn Skotnitsky and Evelyn Ferguson With Valerie Himkowski, Jackie Sokoliuk and Pat Wege.*

COMING SOON! WIRA REPORTS TO WATCH FOR:

- Developing Sustainable Home Ownership Programs for Low Income Households
- Winnipeg Quality of Life Project
- Heritage Art and Community: Building Pride and Identity in Winnipeg's West End
- Male Reading Teachers: Effects on Inner City Boys
- Winnipeg's Single Room Occupancy Hotels

VOICES FROM THE MARGINS COMMUNITY FORUMS

The final community forum of a series organized to explore the challenges faced by street involved youth in Winnipeg was held on May 12th, 2004. Forum 5: "Voices into Action" re-visited the learnings of the previous four forums, and then linked issues and challenges to action plans. Approximately 75 people attended the day-long forum, including significant participation by street-involved youth who worked alongside representatives of community-based organizations, funding agencies, and government departments. The final outcome of the "Voices from the Margins" Forums was the identification of, and commitment to, a number of innovative and collaborative strategies and initiatives to address gaps and barriers in systems supporting street-involved youth in Winnipeg.

CALL FOR WIRA RESEARCH PROPOSALS

The Winnipeg Inner City Research Alliance (WIRA) funds community-based research projects that aim to ultimately improve the quality of life in the inner city.

WIRA supports partnerships comprised of community groups and university-based researchers who combine their strengths, expertise and resources to work toward the social, cultural and economic development of Winnipeg's inner city neighbourhoods.

WIRA research projects should fall within one of the following general theme areas:

-Social Development (emphasis on youth, educational and Aboriginal issues);
-Community Economic Development; or
-Housing

The application form and guidelines are available at http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca/wira_application_kit.html

Deadline for submission is Monday, September 13, 2004

Inquiries can be directed to:

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Institute of Urban Studies
Download Free Publications

Download free publications from the Institute of Urban Studies (IUS) website. The following selected publications are available in pdf format.
Website address: http://ius.uwinnipeg.ca

First Nations/Métis/Inuit Mobility Study
The *First Nations/Métis/Inuit Mobility Study* completed 1350 interviews with persons recently moving to Winnipeg. The research was carried out over a fifteen-month period, with study participants interviewed on three separate occasions. The objective was to examine the mobility process from two perspectives: the initial move into the city and the reasons why, and the subsequent pattern of movement within the city once persons remained. The research also assessed the pattern of service use during this period to better understand the needs of persons as they adjusted to living in the city.

Big Boxes, Power Centres and the Evolving Retail Landscape of Winnipeg
By Brian Lorch
This report offers a geographical perspective on a wave of big box store and power centre development that Winnipeg experienced between 1998 and 2001. Analysis reveals that new retail development has gravitated to existing major retail nodes thereby reinforcing the traditional retail hierarchy. New big box discount and category killer merchants have not eroded the integrity of any regional or super-regional enclosed shopping malls. Smaller open air strip malls have not fared as well. Micro-geographies of traditional enclosed malls and the new retail power centres are explored with attention given to ways the typical design and layout of power centres contributes to increased levels of dependence on automobiles. Planning issues related to the construction of new retail space and the redevelopment of existing retail spaces are discussed.

Sex Work and City Planning: Winnipeg's Red Light District Committee and the Regulation of Prostitution
By Steven A. Kohm and John Selwood
In November of 1999, a Manitoba Provincial Court decision called into question the City of Winnipeg's ability to regulate off-street prostitution through its municipal licencing by-law for escort services. The result was a lengthy process that saw the city establish a volunteer committee to investigate the regulation of the sex trade in Winnipeg and make recommendations about what could be done in the future. This paper examines the process by which the volunteer committee arrived at its recommendations, and the resulting response from city bureaucrats and officials within the provincial Department of Justice.

The Geography of Income in Manitoba's Capital Region
By Brian Lorch
Brian Lorch examines the variation in average incomes earned by households residing in the 16 cities, towns and rural municipalities that make up the Capital Region.

A Comparative Analysis of Major Suburban Shopping Nodes in Winnipeg
By Brian Lorch
This report examines structural and business sector attributes of eight major suburban shopping nodes in Winnipeg based on data collected in Fall, 2001. Included is an analysis of the relative presence of big box store and power centre development in the Winnipeg market as well as the occurrence of vacancies of retail units.